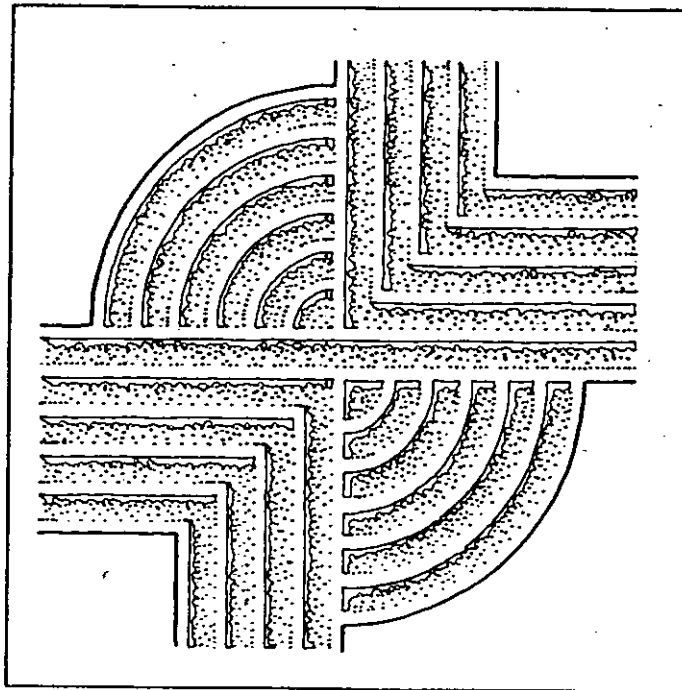


MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SITE BOUNDARY DETERMINATIONS AND ADDITIONAL
SURVEY ON DAUFUSKIE ISLAND, BEAUFORT
COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 26

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE BOUNDARY
DETERMINATIONS AND ADDITIONAL SURVEY ON DAUFUSKIE ISLAND,
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Chicora Research Contribution 26

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Introduction

This investigations was conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for International Paper Reality Corporation of South Carolina, developer of Haig Point on Daufuskie Island. International Paper also has options on the Webb and Oak Ridge Tracts, also on Daufuskie Island. Daufuskie is a sea island located in Beaufort County, South Carolina, between Hilton Head to the northeast and Turtle Island to the southwest. The island is separated from Hilton Head Island by Calibogue Sound and from Turtle Island by New River. The Cooper River, Ramshorn Creek, and a broad expanse of salt marsh separate Daufuskie from the mainland to the northwest. There are 5200 acres of highland and 950 acres of salt marsh incorporated into the island (Mathews et al. 1980:156).

Previous work on Daufuskie Island includes a reconnaissance level investigation of the Haig Point, Oak Ridge, and Webb Tracts by Michie in 1982 (Michie 1983). Since that time Lepionka has also conducted extensive investigations on the island, although no report is currently available. Detailed historical research has been conducted by Starr (1981, 1984, 1986).

This research involved two distinct phases. First, Chicora was responsible for relocating a series of fifteen archaeological sites, previously determined by the S.C. State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Once relocated, the sites were to be tested at a level of effort sufficient only to establish boundaries. Only very limited surface collections were permitted and International Paper reduced the scope of the original proposal, limiting the testing to intervals of no less than 50 foot intervals. Each site, once boundaries were determined, was to have those boundaries marked in the field and recorded on 1:2400 scale topographic maps. All revisited sites were to have updated S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site forms filed.

Second, Chicora was to conduct additional survey on the Oak Ridge and Webb Tracts. This survey, limited to very specific areas of both tracts, was to be at an intensive level. The work was undertaken to examine areas previously suggested by Michie (1983) to warrant further investigation. Sites identified by this work were to be recorded with the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and were to be evaluated for their eligibility for inclusion on the National Register. They were to be flagged in the field and recorded on development maps.

The archaeological investigations were conducted from June 20 through July 7, 1988 by a crew of four, including the author. A total of 320 person hours were devoted to this work. Field conditions were generally good and only one day was lost to rain. Artifacts recovered from this study will be curated at the Environmental and Historical Museum of Hilton Head Island, although final accession numbers have not yet been obtained. All original field notes (including photographic materials) and archival copies will also be curated at this facility. Site numbers have been assigned by the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and copies of all site forms are on file at that agency. The artifacts are only partially processed and have received only preliminary sorting. This work, as well as conservation of artifacts, will continue through the final report stage. This report is intended only as a summary of activities undertaken and is not intended to take the place of a final, professional monograph.

Field Methods

The amount of previous archaeological attention directed to the Oak Ridge Tract is not well known. Although Michie (1983) does not record any sites from this tract, his survey methodology clearly indicates that a peripheral edge survey was conducted in the Oak Ridge Tract (Michie 1983:37) and it also appears that the well drained interior area of this tract adjacent to an intermittent pond was intensively examined (Michie 1983:38).

Certain problems are encountered when Michie's (1983:Figure 6) soil survey maps are used to identify additional potential survey areas. Michie has lumped the poorly drained Baratari soils with the moderately well drained to excessively well drained Sewee, Seabrook, and Wando soils. If the Baratari soils are placed with the very poorly drained Polawana and Rosedhu soils, then the areas of high archaeological probability in the tract are reduced to a ridge of Sewee and Wando soils at the northwestern edge of the tract overlooking an intermittent pond and a ridge of Seabrook soils about 1600 feet to the south.

Chicora proposed to briefly investigate both of these two areas. The well drained soils adjacent to the intermittent pond may have been previously examined by Michie, but absent clear evidence that an examination has taken place we proposed to excavate a series of shovel tests parallel to the pond at 50 foot intervals. All soil was to be screened through 1/4-inch mesh and if cultural remains are identified additional tests would be conducted to determine boundaries. All information necessary to complete site inventory forms would be collected in the field.

The small ridge to the south, which represents the second area of concern, would be examined in a similar fashion. Again, all soil will be screened and the intervals between tests would

be decreased if cultural remains were found. These investigations are actually quite significant since few archaeological studies have examined interior ridges or moderately well drained soil surrounded by areas of poorly drained soil.

The archaeological survey of the Oak Ridge Tract emphasized the first high (15-19 feet MSL), well drained (Wando soils) ridge running northeast-southwest through the tract, parallel to the ocean beach ridge system. Once we received topographic maps from International Paper we found that the second ridge has elevations of only 10 to 12 feet and no further work was conducted in that area. The research was conducted at the first ridge as planned and a total of 104 shovel tests were excavated and screened through 1/4-inch mesh. This transect through the ridge followed a dirt road, although the tests were placed off the road. Where positive shovel tests were encountered, additional tests at 25 foot intervals were excavated in order to determine boundaries.

Soils in the Sewee 1 and 2 parcels on the Webb tract consist entirely of the somewhat poorly drained Sewee series. The presence of a remnant creek or slough separates the two parcels and suggested that prehistoric sites might be found on the interior of the tract as well as along its marsh edges. The bulk of both parcels are within 400 feet of the marsh and there are about 4000 linear feet of marsh bank. Additional survey work in these areas was conducted in response to Michie's suggestion that the area should be more intensively investigated.

Chicora proposed to conduct intensive, systematic shovel tests of the bluff edge of both the Sewee 1 and 2 tracts. These tests were to be at 50 foot intervals placed about 25 feet from the bluff edge. All soils would be screened through 1/4-inch mesh and all recovered cultural material (excluding shell, which was to be subjectively quantified) would be retained. If archaeological remains were discovered during this testing procedure, the spacing of the tests would be decreased to no greater than 25 feet (both parallel and perpendicular to the shore) in order to better identify the limits of occupation. These shovel tests would assist not only in determining site boundaries, but also in determining site integrity, artifact density, and temporal periods of occupation. This survey technique should be particularly effective in identifying the location of prehistoric middens, although it would also reveal the location of historic remains if they exist.

Survey of the Sewee 1 and 2 parcels was conducted as originally outlined by the proposal. A total of 75 shovel tests were excavated in the Sewee 1 parcel and 74 shovel tests were excavated in the Sewee 2 parcel. All tests were screened through 1/4-inch mesh.

All of the fifteen sites to be investigated have been

determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. According to the Request for Proposals the purpose of additional archaeological testing was solely to establish site boundaries, both on development mapping and in the field. The collection of specimens was to be limited. Of the sites to be investigated, seven were primarily prehistoric middens, six were primarily historic occupations, and two were historic cemeteries.

Since all of the sites appeared to be wooded, some heavily, it was obvious that some form of subsurface testing technique would be required. Given the terrain and possible depth of deposits, Chicora proposed to use a two-person power auger with a 10-inch bit. At each of the sites we proposed to establish a simple grid, with points at 50 foot intervals. This grid would be tied into reasonably permanent markers (such as development markers if nearby or iron stakes set for this purpose) so that future work could take advantage of the findings. Soil from the tests would be screened through 1/4-inch mesh and notations would be made on the stratigraphy of the tests. All auger tests were to be backfilled prior to leaving the site.

Site boundaries, established by the auger test studies, would be marked in the field using double bands of survey flagging tape.

Cemeteries were to be treated in a slightly different manner and were not to be auger tested. At each cemetery a site datum would be established in a convenient, central area. Only the sunken depressions at the outer edge of the cemetery would be located in relation to the datum. Grave goods at individual depressions, if readily observed during this study, were to be recorded and photographed.

These procedures were followed with only minor variations. Rather than auger testing, some sites were shovel tested. This change was the result of access and time restrictions. Many of the sites were quickly identified as much larger than originally anticipated and it was not possible to establish the grids necessary to perform auger tests. At many sites the transects were increased from 50 foot intervals to 100 foot, again because of time restrictions. This change does not affect our ability to establish realistic site boundaries. At cemeteries we found that the vegetation prevented the proposed technique and it was modified to a modified "dog leash" technique where all depressions were flagged using increasing spirals outward from the estimated center of the cemetery. This modification actually allowed more of the cemeteries to be carefully examined and more grave goods to be recorded.

Results

The survey procedures at Oak Ridge resulted in the identification of four positive shovel tests. Additional investigations at 25 foot intervals, however, revealed these areas to be isolated finds lacking integrity and substance. As a result, none of these loci were defined as archaeological sites. In addition to the shovel tests along the major transect, Chicora also attempted to locate the "bldg?" shown on the development map at the southern end of the ridge. A series of four transects at 50 foot intervals were examined in the vicinity of the posited building. No evidence of the structure was observed. No archaeological sites were encounter in the Oak Ridge tract and no further archaeological survey is necessary.

The survey of the Sewee 1 and 2 parcels on the Webb Tract identified four additional archaeological sites (38BU941-38BU944) which will be discussed below.

The examination of the fifteen archaeological sites succeeded in relocating fourteen of the loci, although one (38BU630) could not be found and may either have been destroyed or may have been mislocated during the initial survey. In several cases previously identified sites have been damaged or largely destroyed by development activities. In at least one case a site previously evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the National Register, upon closer examination, does not appear to meet the necessary significance criteria. The fifteen previously identified sites and the four recorded from the Webb Tract survey are briefly discussed below.

38BU135

This is a very well preserved and dense Irene shell midden in the Webb Tract adjacent to a tributary of Ramshorn Creek. A series of 65 shovel tests were excavated along eight transects. Site boundaries were established and the site dimensions are about 900 by 400 feet. At least nine above grade shell middens were encounter and the midden adjacent to the bluff is generally thick. This occupation has produced cremated human burials. This site exhibits excellent site integrity and has the ability to make a major contribution in the areas of South Appalachian Mississippian settlement and subsistence.

38BU136

This site represents a Middle Woodland shell midden and is located on the Webb Tract adjacent to an unnamed tributary of Cooper River. A series of 19 shovel tests were excavated along five transects to determine the boundaries. The site measures about 200 by 500 feet. At least one above grade shell midden was encounter^{ed}, as well as midden eroding from the bluff. The site exhibits good integrity and the erosional bluff face revealed several shell pits in profile. ✓

This site, known as the "Lower House," was originally reported to be a "plantation period" settlement. Michie conducted some testing at the site, but the field notes have been lost. Additional work has been conducted at the site by Lepionka, but no report has been produced. This work incorporated 51 auger tests in the site area as defined by Michie and an additional 25 shovel tests to expand the site boundaries to about 900 by 700 feet. This site contains a small, probably postbellum, historic component, as well as a major prehistoric occupation dating from the Early Woodland and South Appalachian Mississippian periods. Although there is little archaeological evidence for the postbellum occupation, discussions with Mr. Michael Taylor suggest that the site is archivally documented as Freeport, a black community on the island into the early twentieth century (Michael Taylor, personal communication 1988). This would make this site extremely important. A portion of the site area has been destroyed by the construction of the golf course. The remaining site exhibits excellent integrity.

38BU586, 38BU587, 38BU588

These three sites, all within 40 feet of one another, could legitimately be considered one site with three distinct loci and are therefore treated together here. The sites consist of small shell middens found surrounded by hard marsh immediately off the Daufuskie highland adjacent to Calibogue Sound on the Haig Point tract. The sites are probably representative of Middle Woodland middens and artifact density is very low. These middens were examined through the use of 16 shovel tests along three transects bisecting each site. We confirmed that site 38BU588 is much larger than originally thought, covering 700 by 50 feet. Sites 38BU586 and 38BU587 are 150 by 50 feet and 200 by 50 feet, respectively. Sites 38BU587 and 38BU588 have both been damaged by the construction of a golf cart path and the placement of utilities lines, although the sites exhibit good integrity. Midden depth ranges from less than 0.5 foot on the edge of the midden, up to 1.0 foot in the center.

38BU591

This site, known also as the Lighthouse or Haig Point Plantation, is situated on a relatively high bluff overlooking Calibogue Sound on the Haig Point tract. Portions of this site have been investigated by Lepionka, although no report is available and apparently no effort has been made to establish site boundaries. This work has only examined the southern portion of the site, adjacent to site 38BU628, and has found that while there are logical boundaries, the two sites grade into one another. The southern and southeastern boundaries for the site were established through the excavation of 70 shovel tests along

five transects perpendicular to Calibogue Sound. This work reveals several concentrations of domestic and architectural remains south of the Lighthouse or main plantation house, which probably represent support structures for the plantation. The site area investigated by this work, which measures about 600 by 400 feet, exhibits excellent site integrity.

38BU592

The Haig Point Cemetery, within the Haig Point tract on the east side of the paved Haig Point Road, appears to represent a nineteenth century black cemetery with use continuing into the twentieth century. This work identified at least 34 graves, 11 of which were marked. The stones within the cemetery need consolidation and the area should receive additional attention. We understand that the grave goods have been collected by Lepionka and buried somewhere on the site, but we have not been provided with any further information. Our study did reveal additional grave goods in the cemetery, which measures about 180 by 280 feet.

38BU615

The Periwinkle Midden, situated on a point of land in the Webb Tract, was examined throughout four shovel tests. Site boundaries have been placed covering an area 50 by 30 feet. The midden appears to be thin and confined to the area immediately adjacent to the marsh edge. No artifacts were discovered in this work so it is not possible to speculate on temporal period of occupation. Because the site is unusual, it is still judged to be worthy of additional investigation or protection.

38BU619

This site has been called the Bryan Cemetery by Michie after one of the headstones, but is referred to as the Webb Tract Cemetery by this study. The site, situated along the dirt Haig Point Road in the Webb Tract, appears to represent a nineteenth century black cemetery with use continuing until very recently. A total of 48 graves, four with stones, were identified during this work. These four stones should receive cleaning and consolidation. Our investigations also revealed that grave goods are abundant at this cemetery. The boundaries have been established to incorporate an area of 150 by 250 feet.

38BU620

This site, also known as the Webb House site, is situated immediately inland from 38BU135 on the Webb Tract. Michie notes that the site was tested during his survey, but all notes from this investigation have been lost. The site appears to represent a postbellum occupation, probably a freedmen's settlement. Two

tabby chimney footings are present and are associated with a series of at least six shell middens. This site was investigated by two transects containing a total of 19 shovel tests. The site size is about 500 feet in diameter, with a somewhat smaller core area. This is a very well preserved late site which has the potential to provide considerable information on black history. Future research at this site should consider comparisons with the Mitchelville site on Hilton Head Island. Unfortunately, this site has recently been vandalized by "pothunters" and this problem should be considered in long-term planning.

38BU623

This site, while originally evaluated to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register, appears to be a thin, extensively eroded prehistoric shell midden. Its significance should be re-evaluated. The site is situated on a point of land within the Webb tract overlooking the marshes of Cooper River. It was examined through a series of seven shovel tests and was found to measure about 50 by 25 feet. No evidence of shell midden was found to extend inland past the marsh edge.

38BU628

The Woodward House site, located on the bluff south of the Lighthouse (38BU591) overlooking Calibogue Sound, was originally recorded and tested by Michie. The notes from these tests, however, have been lost. Additional, unspecified, work has been conducted at the site by Lepionka. The nature and extent of the site could not be determined during these investigations since the site is now covered by a golf course. Our investigations along the edge of the Sound revealed that the dimensions of the site were perhaps 200 feet north-south. Based on the extensive development which has taken place over the site, it is probable that the site is no longer eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

38BU630

This site, identified by Michie as the Historic Middens Site, is reported to be located "on [a] bluff overlooking water," and is somewhere in the vicinity of 38BU634. Unfortunately, the maps associated with the site show it located in two different places, both of which were examined during this survey without success. This site was also tested by Michie, but the field notes have been lost. It is possible that the site has been incorporated into our 38BU634 site boundary, since that site is associated with several large, historic period shell middens.

38BU634

This site is known as the South Tabby Site and is located

south of 38BU628 adjacent to Calibogue Sound. Originally tested during Michie's survey of Daufuskie, the field notes were lost. Our investigations incorporated a series 60 auger tests over the area and an additional 10 shovel tests. Site boundaries were established to incorporate an area measuring 200 by 550 feet. The site represents an antebellum slave row consisting of at least eight tabby chimney footings, two of which are above grade. In addition to the structural remains there are also four shell middens which probably represent kitchen debris from the occupation. This site has the potential to provide significant information regarding slave lifeways on Daufuskie Island.

38BU941

This site, located on the Sewee 1 area of the Webb Tract, was identified during the recent investigations. It measures about 350 by 150 feet and is a series of irregular shell middens adjacent to a tidal creek slough. The site was investigated through 18 shovel tests. There is a potential for feature preservation and site integrity is judged to be high. This site is recommended eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

38BU942

Also situated on the Sewee 1 portion of the Webb tract, this site consisted of a single positive shovel test at the head of a slough flowing into the marsh. Additional tests failed to yield further evidence of occupation. Site size is estimated to be 25 by 25 feet. The recovered material represents the early fiber tempered Stallings pottery, which is a significant discovery. However, both artifact density and spatial distribution are low. We do not believe that this site is eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

38BU943

This site is situated on an interior, level plain about 250 feet from the marsh in the Sewee 2 portion of the Webb tract. A series of seven shovel tests were used to investigate the site area, estimated to measure 50 by 25 feet. The site is very small and exhibits a low artifact density. There is no evidence of site integrity. This site is not eligible for the National Register.

38BU944

Situated on the Sewee 2 portion of the Webb tract, 38BU944 represents a small prehistoric site situated inland from the marsh edge. Its topographic and environmental situation is similar to 38BU943. A series of 7 shovel tests identified the site boundaries covering an area no greater than 50 by 25 feet. This site is small and evidences very sparse shell and artifact

content. There is no evidence of site integrity. The site is recommended as not eligible for the National Register.

Summary

Investigations on a high sand ridge at the Oak Ridge tract revealed very scattered and sparse remains which do not appear to represent cohesive archaeological sites. No further archaeological investigations are recommended for this area.

The additional survey of the Sewee 1 and 2 parcels or areas of the Webb Tract have identified four previously unrecorded archaeological sites, one of which appears to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register. The remaining three sites are small and are not recommended as eligible. These four sites, however, must be reviewed by the SHPO.

The site boundaries for the previously recorded fifteen sites have been established using a combination of both shovel and auger tests. Updated site forms have been filed with the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and maps of the site boundaries, at a scale of 1:2400, have been prepared for International Paper. The site boundaries have also been flagged in the field. All but two of these sites remain clearly eligible for inclusion on the National Register. One of the two doubtful sites appears to be small and eroded, while the other has been extensively damaged by construction.

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